

NSC BRIEFING

4 February 1958

ANTI-WESTERN TREND IN YEMEN

I. Yemen's anti-Western trend will probably speed up now that Crown Prince Badr, main booster of Sino-Soviet bloc aid, has returned from Eastern Europe, Moscow and Peiping, where he concluded new diplomatic, aid and trade agreements.

A. Yemen and the USSR signed "a number of economic and trade agreements" during the recent two-week visit to Yemen of Soviet ambassador Kiselev, who resides in Cairo.

1. Agreements presumably include a previously offered 5-year economic development loan, which the Soviets valued at \$35,000,000.

2. Yemen has also been seeking additional military equipment, including jet fighters, and bloc personnel to operate military aircraft and armored vehicles.

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B. Success of the Soviet visit indicates that King Saud, who has been increasingly concerned over the trend in Yemen, failed in efforts to discourage the Imam from yielding still further.

II. Meanwhile, Yemen government thwarted a new conspiracy by northern tribesmen against the Imam on 22 January.

A. Bazaar rumors that plotters supported by British and US suggests that the government may exploit the incident to reduce further Western influence in Yemen, and justify turning

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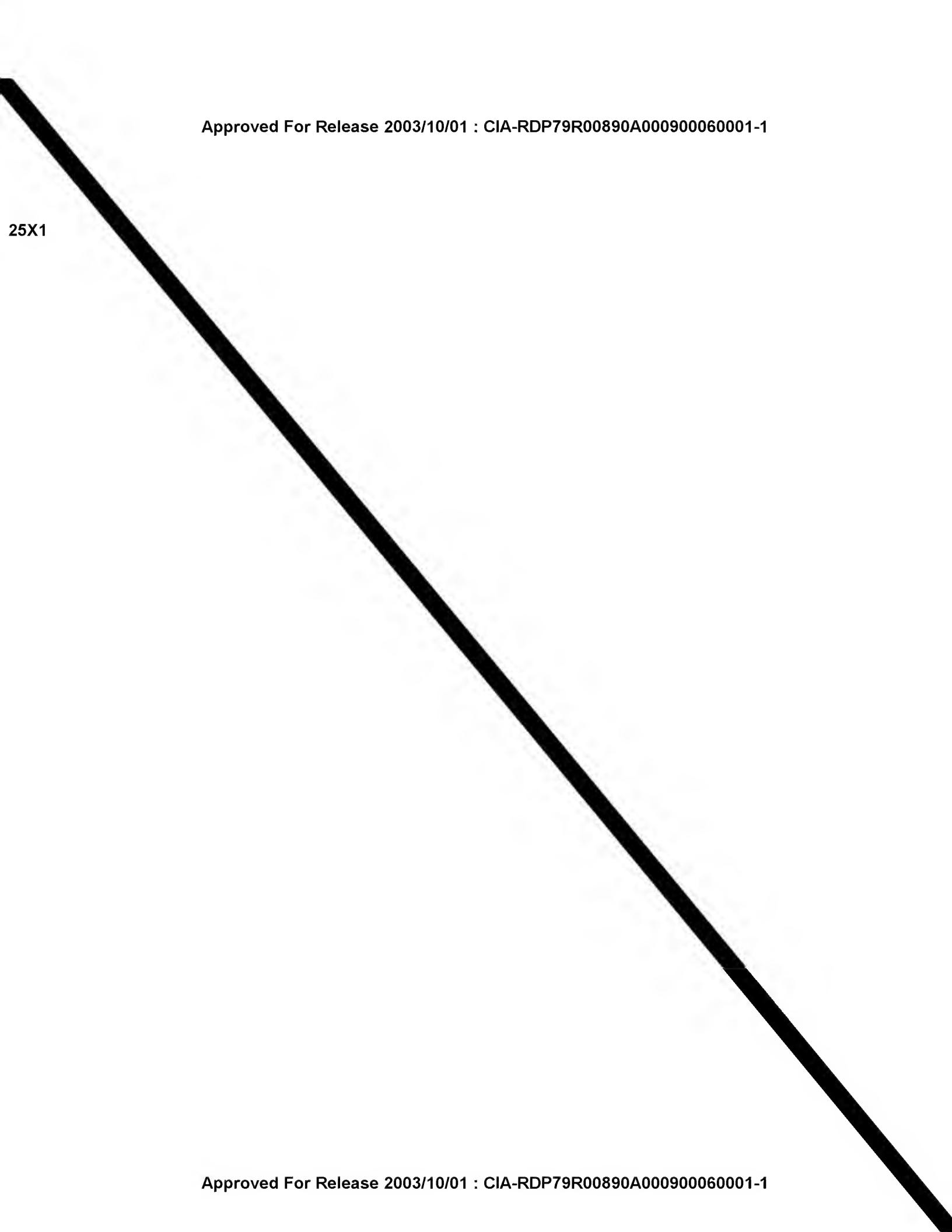
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- B. Yemen has used the incident to request the recall of the British chargé.
- C. Relations with Britain may be expected to deteriorate further, with more serious Yemeni attacks along the Aden Protectorate frontier and spreading subversion within the Protectorate, where desertions among British-led native troops have increased to 20 a month.

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